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$2.50 US
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THE INFINITY GAUNTLET™

THE END BEGINS HERE!

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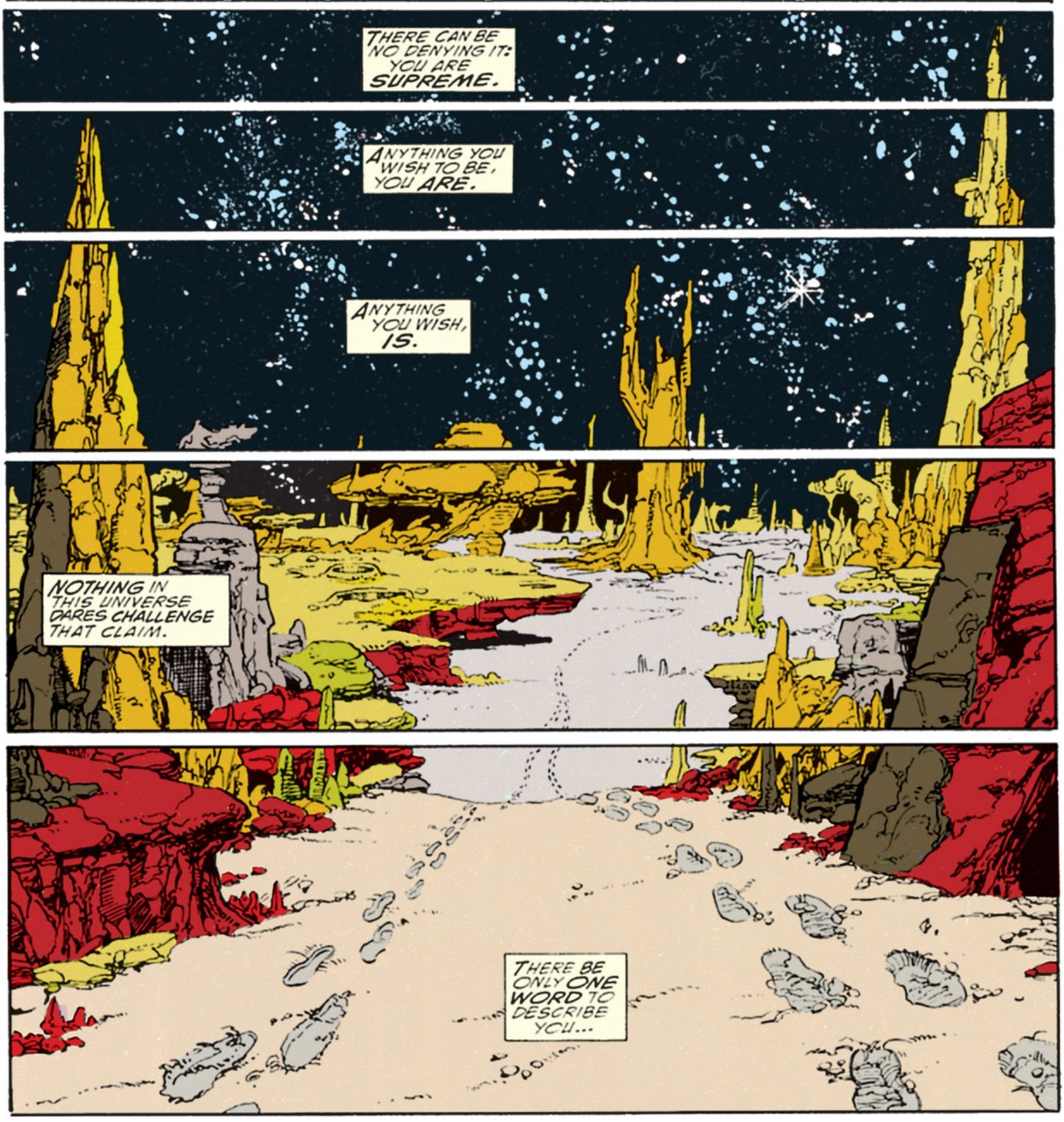
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE INFINITY GAUNTLET



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WITHIN YOUR GRASP RESTS THE *INFINITE.*

MY *HUMBLE PERSONAGE* BOWS BEFORE YOUR *GRANDEUR.*

I AM PROUD TO BE YOUR *FIRST ACOLYTE* AND BASK IN THE GLORY OF YOUR DIVINE *PRESENCE.*

HOW MAY I SERVE YOU, *GREAT THANOS?*

WRITER
JIM STARLIN
PENCILS
GEORGE PÉREZ

JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
W/ TOM CHRISTOPHER
INKERS

LETTERS
JACK MORELLI
COLORISTS
MAX SCHEELE
W/ IAN LAUGHLIN

EDITOR
CRAIG ANDERSON

TOM DeFALCO
CHIEF

BY FALLING SILENT, *MEPHISTO.*

THE MOMENT IS UPON US...

...WHEN THE STARS MUST COME TO REALIZE...

...THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH OF YOUR WORDS.

NONE SHALL DENY ME MY RIGHTEOUS PLACE IN THE PANTHEON OF THE COSMIC GODS.

I CLAIM A SEAT AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE.

THERE ARE SECRETS HIDDEN WITHIN THE HEAVENS THAT EVEN I, THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, AM NOT PRIVY TO.

DR. STRANGE IS BUT A MAGE, NOT SOME ALL-KNOWING DEITY.

IT'D BEEN AN UNEVENTFUL DAY AND MY HOPE WAS THAT THE NIGHT WOULD BE THE SAME.

ALAS, SUCH GOOD FORTUNE WAS NOT TO SHINE ON ME.

I WAS IN THE MIDST OF A LATE DINNER WHEN I FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE APPROACHING CRISIS.

WILL YOU BE GOING OUT TONIGHT, MASTER?

ONLY AS FAR AS MY MIND AND THIS BOOK WILL TAKE ME, WONG.

A MEDICAL JOURNAL?

ABOUT AN OUTBREAK OF INSANITY IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS.

WHAT CAUSED THIS EPIDEMIC?

Insanity

NO ONE SEEMS TO--

KER-RAKK

BY THE VISHANTI! WHAT WAS THAT??

IMEI AND RINTRAH ARE OUT SHOPPING!

WHICH MEANS WE HAVE AN INTRUDER ON THE PREMISES.

ONE WHO WILL SURELY REGRET CHOOSING THIS HOUSE TO--

YOU?

OF ALL THE PEOPLE I IMAGINED MIGHT BE LURKING IN MY STUDY, THE **SILVER SURFER** WAS NOT AMONG THE LIST.

AND THE TRUTH IS HE WASN'T EXACTLY LURKING. HE SEEMED BARELY CAPABLE OF **OPENING** HIS EYES AND **MOANING**.

STRANGE... MUST REACH... STRANGE...

YOU **HAVE**, MY FRIEND.

WONG, HELP ME GET HIM TO THE SOFA.

SURFER, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Y-YES... CAME TO... WARN YOU...

WARN ME?

WARN ME ABOUT WHAT?

HIS ARRIVAL... COULD HERALD... THE *END* OF THE *UNIVERSE*...

GREAT DANGER...

COMING... THIS WAY...

... MUST BE... STOPPED!

WHO? WHAT??

THANOS IS COMING!

I KNOW, YOU THOUGHT HIM **DEAD.** HE WAS, BUT HE IS **NO LONGER.** HOW COULD ANY OF US KNOW THAT **MISTRESS DEATH** WOULD RESURRECT THIS MONSTER?

APPARENTLY DEATH HAS LONG THOUGHT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE ALIVE TODAY THAN HAVE **EVER DIED** WAS A TYPE OF **COSMIC IMBALANCE.**

THIS WAS AN IRREGULARITY SHE SOUGHT TO RIGHT USING THE DARK POWERS AT HER DISPOSAL.

AND SO SHE MADE THE **TRAGIC MISTAKE** OF RETRIEVING **THANOS,** THE **MAD TITAN,** FROM THE REALM OF THE **DEAD.**

THROUGH HIM, DEATH WOULD **MOLD** THE UNIVERSE TO HER **LIKING.**

ALONG WITH RENEWED LIFE, DEATH GAVE HIM GREATLY **AUGMENTED POWER.**

THANOS WOULD NEED THIS **MIGHT** TO PERFORM THE **DARK TASK** HIS MISTRESS ASSIGNED HIM.

DEATH HAS ORDERED THANOS TO SLAUGHTER *HALF* THE SENTIENT *POPULATION* OF THE *UNIVERSE!*

FOR LONG MONTHS, MEPHISTO, I HAVE *CONTEMPLATED* THE DIRECTION IN WHICH I SHOULD STEER THE *DESTINY* OF THIS REALITY.

ALL THE MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES.

SO MANY CHOICES.

I DO NOT ENVY YOU SUCH ASTRAL BURDENS.

AT TIMES IT SEEMED I WOULD *DROWN* UNDER AN INFINITY OF *SELF-QUESTIONING.*

BUT AT LONG LAST I REALIZE THERE IS BUT *ONE QUESTION* THAT NEEDS ANSWERING.

I AM NOW *OMNIPOTENT.*

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH SUCH *ALMIGHTY POWER?*

THE ANSWER TO *THAT--*

--IS REALLY *QUITE SIMPLE:*

ANYTHING I WANT.

ANYTHING.

I AM INCAPABLE OF ERROR.

ANY RESULT THAT DISPLEASES ME, I CAN SIMPLY REVERSE!

THERE IS NOTHING I NEED WORRY ON, FOR I AM THANOS.

AND THANOS IS SUPREME.

Huh, MOST DEFINITELY.

SUPREME.

BUT THANOS WAS TOO ARROGANT TO BE ANYONE'S THRALL.

HIS SINISTER SCHEME WAS CONCEIVED WHILE GAZING INTO THE DEPTHS OF DEATH'S INFINITY WELL.

THERE HE LEARNT OF THE SOUL OR INFINITY GEMS' TRUE POWER AND CONVINCED HIS DARK MISTRESS THAT THE TASK ASSIGNED HIM COULD NOT BE CARRIED TO FRUITION WITHOUT THEM.

NOT EVEN DEATH REALIZED WHAT LIMITLESS MIGHT THE MAD TITAN WAS STRIVING FOR. THROUGH CUNNING, SHEER STRENGTH, AND MURDER, THANOS WRESTED THE INFINITY GEMS FROM THOSE THAT POSSESSED THEM AND WITH EACH ACQUISITION HE GAINED MASTERY OVER...

THE SOUL

THE MIND

POWER

TIME

REALITY

SPACE

IN OTHER WORDS, THANOS NOW HAS THE UNBRIDLED POWER OF A GOD!

NO LONGER DO THE LAWS OF NATURE BIND HIM.

HIS WILL CAN BEND THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY.

HE IS ALL AND ALL THERE IS IS NOW HIS TO COMMAND.

THANOS IS NOW MIGHTIER THAN DEATH HERSELF.

MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE.

SUCH A FORCE IN THE HANDS OF A MADMAN.

A NIHILIST.

IT COULD MEAN THE END OF ALL THAT IS.

THEY WERE ALL GRADE-A LOSERS.

WE FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THEM AS THEY STEPPED OUT OF A BAR IN SOMEPLACE CALLED UPSTATE NEW YORK...

NATURALLY THEY WERE TANKED TO THE GILLS.

BAR

GULLY JONES BAR & GRILL

WE SHOULDA GOT OUTTA HERE HOURS AGO!

TOW AWAY ZONE

WE'RE HOT!

THE RINGLEADER WAS A COLD-EYED BRUTE CALLED JAKE MILLER...

GETTING PRETTY TIRED OF YER ALWAYS NAGGIN,' FATS.

THE TUB OF LARD WAS RALPH BUNKER...

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

YA JUST DON'T KNOCK OFF A LIQUOR STORE, WASTE THE SHOPKEEPER AND SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY IN A BAR!

THE BLONDE BIMBO WENT BY THE NAME OF BAMBI LONG. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

FATS, YA JUST GOTTA LEARN TA RELAX AND ENJOY LIFE! Teehee!

CAN'T YOU TWO GET IT THROUGH YER HEADS WE GOTTA GET OUTTA STATE, MAYBE UP TA CANADA!

NOW PLAYING: AT THE LOTUS THEATRE BB DIAMOND ABE BROWN HECTOR AYALA KUNG FU

WE ARE.

THE COPS'LL BE LOOKIN' FER US ON THE THRUWAY.

THEN WE TAKE THE BACK ROADS, NO SWEAT.

I KNOW 'EM LIKE THE BACK'A MY HAND.

WHAT A JERK THAT JAKE WAS.

GUESS THE BIG LUG FORGOT ABOUT ONE CERTAIN CURVE ON THE BACK OF HIS HAND.

HOTEL

BECAUSE HE DROVE OFF IT DOING BETTER THAN 65!

NO ONE SURVIVED THE SUDDEN STOP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF.

NOT REALIZING THE EXTENT OF THANOS'S NEW MIGHT, A BEING CALLED THE *DESTROYER* AND I FOOLISHLY CONFRONTED THE TITAN.

IT ALMOST PROVED TO BE A *FATAL MIS-CALCULATION* ON OUR PART.

WE WERE BUT HELPLESS PUPPETS WITHIN HIS GRASP. HE TOYED WITH US, LAUGHING ALL THE TIME.

MY MUCH-LAUDED COSMIC MIGHT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE POWER THANOS BRANDISHED.

THEN, WHEN HE FINALLY TIRED OF US, THE MAD TITAN USED THE POWER OF THE *SOUL GEM*...

...TO STEAL OUR SPIRITUAL ESSENCE.

WHEN WE AWOKE FROM THE ORDEAL, THE DESTROYER AND I FOUND OURSELVES WITHIN THE METAPHYSICAL WORLD OF THE SOUL GEM.

IT WAS THE MOST BIZARRE PLACE I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

IT WAS THERE THAT I MET A STRANGE AND ENIGMATIC MAN CALLED ADAM WARLOCK, APPARENTLY THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE SOULWORLD.

ENCOUNTERING HIM WAS AN EXPERIENCE I'LL LONG REMEMBER.

IT WAS THROUGH A SPELL CAST BY HIM THAT THE DESTROYER AND I WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO THIS REALITY.

A HARROWING ESCAPE.

BY THE TIME WE REGAINED OUR BODIES, THANOS HAD DEPARTED TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION TO CONSIDER THE BEST USE HE COULD MAKE OF HIS NEW-FOUND DIVINITY.

WE WERE INFORMED OF THIS DEVELOPMENT BY MY LONGTIME ENEMY MEPHISTO, FOR REASONS ALL HIS OWN, AND WARNED THAT WE SHOULD FORTIFY OUR UNIVERSE AGAINST THE TITAN'S INEVITABLE RETURN.

I IMMEDIATELY SET OUT FOR EARTH TO SPREAD THE WORD OF APPROACHING DANGER BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, MANY AN EVENT KEPT ME FROM REACHING THIS WORLD UNTIL NOW.

I PRAY MY WARNING HAS NOT COME TOO LATE.

SO DO I!

I STAND IN AWE OF THANOS'S MIGHT AND HIS ABILITY TO WIELD IT AS IF IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF HIM.

IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE THE TITAN WHISKS US OFF TO THE HALL OF DEATH, A REALM EVEN I HAVE NEVER DARED TRESPASS IN.

AND IN A BLINDING FLASH OF EPIPHANY I REALIZE A MOST DISTURBING TRUTH.

EVEN ULTIMATE POWER DOES NOT MAKE YOU THE MASTER OF ALL YOU SURVEY.

MISTRESS DEATH, MY LOVE, I HAVE RETURNED.

IT IS MY MOST SINCERE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE AT LAST FORGIVEN ME MY DUPLICITY IN GAINING THE INFINITY GEMS.

IT WOULD APPEAR SHE HASN'T.

MY LORD, MY SYMPATHIES.

YOU ARE NOT DESERVING OF SUCH BRUSQUE TREATMENT.

NO.

I AM NOT.

THE BIG GUY WAITED UNTIL THE FIRES HAD COOLED SOME BEFORE SENDING US IN.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE OF HIM TO GIVE US SOME WARNING HE WAS MAKING HIS MOVE.

BUT NOOOO...

... THERE WAS THIS BLINDING FLASH, A FEELING OF VERTIGO AND...

...THE THREE OF US WERE IN OUR NEW HOMES...

... FOR BETTER...

...OR WORSE.

THIS BODY IS DEAD!

AND IT'S BEEN CHARBROILED!

IT'S A MESS!

I CAN'T GO WALKING AROUND LOOKING LIKE THIS!

YOU SHALL NOT HAVE TO.

MY POWERS ARE HEALING AND MODIFYING THESE HUSKS TO FIT OUR SPECIFIC NEEDS.

BUT THE TRANS-MUTATION WILL TAKE TIME.

WE WILL NEED A PLACE TO REST WHILE I COMPLETE MY HANDI-WORK.

MOTEL

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN LUCK.

THRIFTY MOTEL

I APPEAR TO BE THE LEAST DAMAGED OF THE THREE OF US--

--SO I SHALL ARRANGE FOR OUR LODGING. WAIT HERE FOR ME.

HEY, BABE, YOU OUGHT TO CHECK YOURSELF OUT IN THE MIRROR.

YOU'RE TURNING GREEN.

GREEN....

HOW NICE.

SO MUCH **POWER** IN THE *POSSESSION* OF ONE WHO HAS BARELY REACHED THE STATUS OF *GODLING.*

THE VERY *THOUGHT* BOGGLES THE MIND.

THANOS COULD DESTROY EVEN **ME** WITH BUT A *THOUGHT*, YET HIS BASIC SOUL REMAINS ON THE EDGE OF *MORTALITY.*

IS HE CAPABLE OF *MANAGING* THE FORCES NOW UNDER HIS COMMAND?

OR WILL HIS *FRAGILE HEART* BE HIS UNDOING?

DARLING MISTRESS, YOUR *SCORN* WOUNDS ME *DEEPLY.*

IT WAS *NEVER* MY INTENTION TO *WRONG* YOU NOR, DO I BELIEVE, I *HAVE.*

TRUE, I DID USE THE POWERS *YOU* GRANTED ME TO SEEK OUT THE INFINITY GEMS TO BECOME THE *SUPREME BEING* THAT NOW STANDS BEFORE YOU.

BUT I ONLY SOUGHT SUCH *GLORY* IN ORDER TO BECOME *WORTHY* OF YOUR LOVE.

YOUR HEART DESERVES *BETTER* THAN THE *THRALL* I WAS.

I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO BECOME YOUR EQUAL.

NOT EQUAL.

SUPERIOR.

NOW MISTRESS DEATH IS NOTHING MORE THAN YOUR LOVE SLAVE.

THAT WAS A POSITION YOU CHAFED IN.

BUT SHE IS THE KEEPER OF MY HEART!

HOW CAN SHE FIND SUCH STATUS ANY LESS STIFLING?

YOUR LOVE IS BONDAGE.

MY LOVE IS WORSHIP!

THE MISTRESS OF THE HALL OF DEATH HAS NO NEED FOR SYCOPHANTS.

NO!

YOU ARE WRONG! DEATH SHOULD BE REVERED!

SHRINES SHOULD BE BUILT TO HER!

YES...

...SHRINES...

"WHAT MERIT HAS *BEAUTY* BE IT NOT CHERISHED AND HONORED?

"HOW COULD I GAZE SO DEEPLY INTO MY LOVED ONE'S *SOUL* AND NOT BUILD *MONUMENTS* TO HER?

"I BE NOW A *DEITY*, YET FIRST I WAS A *MAN*.

"MY *ADORATION* FOR DEATH WAS THE ONLY *MORTAL TRAIT* WORTH BRINGING WITH ME TO THIS *LOFTY PLATEAU*.

"SO FAULT ME NOT FOR CELEBRATING THIS *FIERY PASSION* AND THE FOCUS OF SUCH *DEEP EMOTION*."

COME SIT AT MY SIDE, DEAREST ONE.

IN THE DEPTHS OF THE ETERNAL NIGHT YOU AND I ARE QUEEN AND KING!

OUR DOMAIN BE ALL THE UNIVERSE!

FROM THESE THRONES WE SHALL DECIDE THE FATE OF A MILLION SOLAR SYSTEMS AND ALL THAT INHABIT THEM!

FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT TOMORROW SHALL BE DESIGNED!

AS A TOKEN OF MY HEARTFELT ESTEEM, MISTRESS DEATH, I GIVE THEE ALL THAT IS!

STILL SHE SPURNS ME?!

PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE SHE DOES NOT YET REALIZE THE TRUE STAGNANT DEPTHS YOUR BLACK SOUL IS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

MISTRESS DEATH IS A DARK SPIRIT, EBON IN HER WAYS.

HER MATE MUST BE OF A LIKE BENT.

ARE YOU UP TO SUCH A CHALLENGE?

AM I NOT THANOS!

DID I NOT BUTCHER THE WOMAN WHO GAVE ME BIRTH, WHO FORCE-FED ME INTO THIS HELL CALLED LIFE?!

IS NOT THE WAKE OF MY PASSING CRIMSON WITH THE BLOOD OF MY ENEMIES AND ALLIES ALIKE?!

DEATH IS WITH ME EVERY SECOND OF THE DAY!

MY EVERY MOMENT IS SPENT IN EITHER DEALING OUT DEATH OR WORSHIPPING IT!

SO TELL ME, WHO UNDER THE STARS IS BETTER SUITED THAN I TO BE DEATH'S CONSORT?

NO ONE.

BUT IT IS NOT I YOU NEED PROVE THIS TO.

YES... THAT IS WHAT MUST BE DONE.

IF PROOF OF MY DEPRAVITY IS WHAT IS NEEDED--

--SO BE IT!

"ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE TO YOU NEBULA--

"--MY GRAND-DAUGHTER.

"AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT SHE CLAIMS TO BE.

"SO I TOOK HER AT HER WORD AND MADE HER MY OWN."

FROM A VIGOROUS AND HEALTHY YOUNG THING I CREATED THAT WHICH NOW STANDS BEFORE YOU.

MY POWER AND SPIRIT SCULPTED NEBULA INTO WALKING DEATH-

BEHOLD, MISTRESS DEATH!

THANOS'S GREATEST CREATION!

LIMBS TWISTED, FLESH CHARRED AND CRACKED, AND NEARLY MINDLESS.

BY ALL RIGHTS THE WENCH SHOULD BE DEAD, BUT SHE YET LIVES.

SHE EXISTS ON A FINE LINE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, A LIMBO OF SORTS.

MY UNEARTHLY POWER MAINTAINS HER BALANCE ON THIS PRECARIOUS PERCH.

NEBULA HAS NO HOPE OF *UNCONSCIOUSNESS* OR *TRUE DEATH* RELIEVING HER CONTINUOUS HORROR AND AGONY.

SHE IS MY LIVING TRIBUTE TO THE *BLASPHEMY* OF LIFE AND THE *GLORIOUS PROMISE* OF DEATH.

DO NOT TURN YOUR BACK TO ME, WOMAN!

TITAN, MISTRESS DEATH FINDS YOUR BOASTS *EMPTY* AND YOUR BRAVADO *DISTASTEFUL*.

MISTRESS, YOU WILL ADDRESS ME DIRECTLY OR NOT AT ALL!

I DO NOT COMPREHEND THIS ATTITUDE OF YOURS, MISTRESS.

ALL I SEEK IS YOUR LOVE AND APPROVAL.

BUT ALL I RECEIVE FOR MY HERCULEAN EFFORTS IS YOUR DISDAIN.

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE SUCH REJECTION?

PERHAPS IT IS WHAT YOU HAVEN'T DONE THAT RILES THE MAIDEN.

OF COURSE.

SO ENGROSSED HAVE I BEEN IN REVELING IN MY NEWFOUND MIGHT THAT I HAVE BEEN RE-MISS IN FULFILLING THE OBLIGATION ACCEPTED DURING MY PAST LIFE!

MY LOVE BADE ME TO EXTINGUISH THE LIGHT OF HALF THE UNIVERSE'S POPULACE.

IT IS A TASK I HAVE YET TO COMPLETE.

HOW INCONSIDERATE OF ME.

MY BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN INEXCUSABLE. NO WONDER YOU HAVE BEEN ANGRY WITH ME.

A LOVER SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW THROUGH ON A VOW GIVEN.

HE'S REALLY GOING TO DO IT.

SNAP

BAGGED MYSELF A COUPLE BURGLARS AND THREE MUGGERS..

...A TYPICAL NIGHT'S WORK FOR YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR-HOOD SPIDER-MAN.

I WAS CALLING IT QUITS AND HEADING HOME WHEN...

...SOMETHING LIKE A WAVE OF VERTIGO HIT ME.

THEN THE OL' SPIDER SENSE WENT OFF LIKE IT NEVER HAD BEFORE.

IT FELT LIKE MY SKULL WAS GOING TO EXPLODE.

DECIDED TO COME IN FOR A LANDING UNTIL IT PASSED...

WHEN THE OL' HEAD CLEARED, I FOUND MYSELF STARING DOWN AT THE CROWD MILLING AROUND TIMES SQUARE.

EVEN AT THIS LATE HOUR THE PLACE WAS STILL JUMPING.

OPEN 24 HOURS

HOWARD J

COCKTAILS

LIVE ACTS

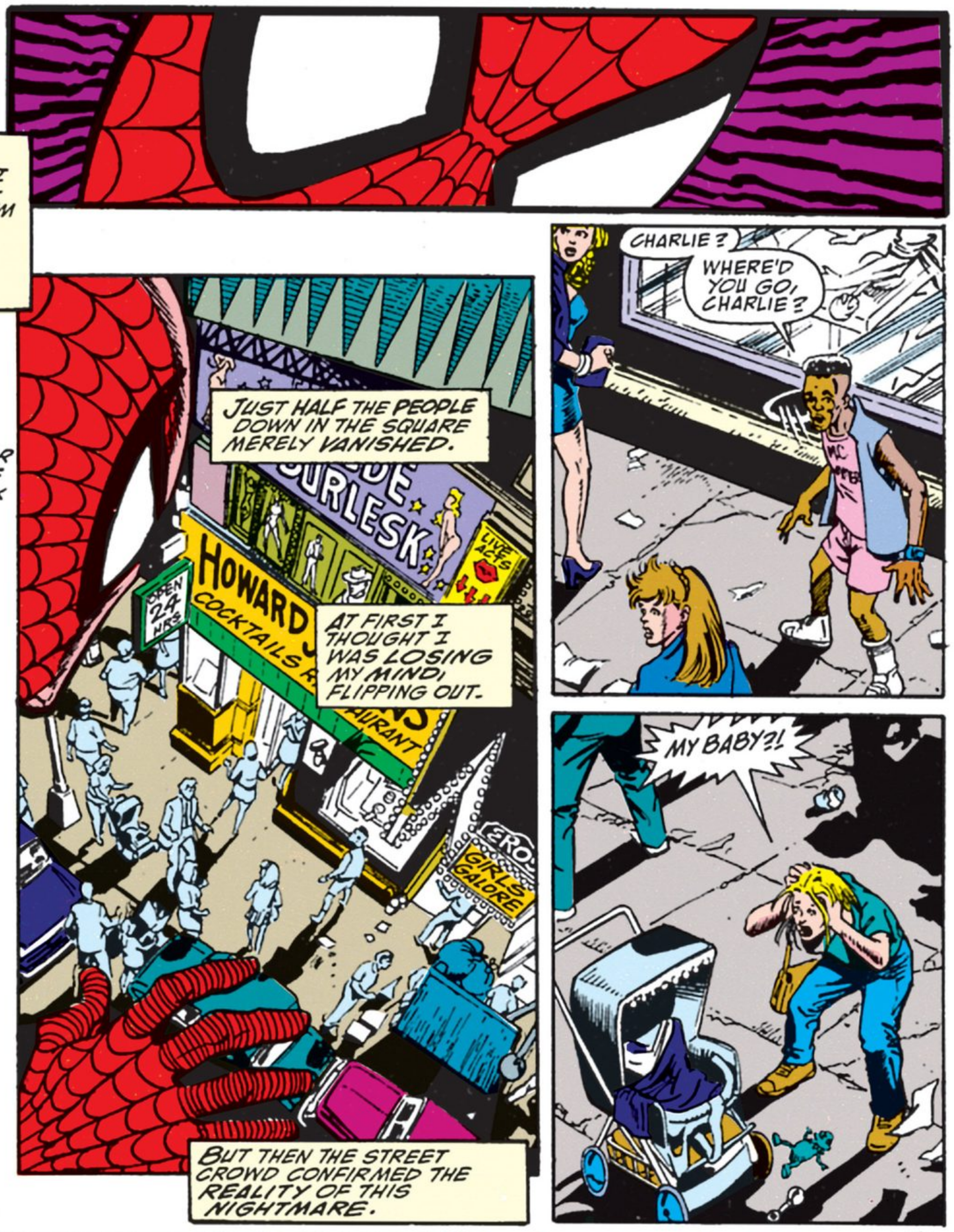
GIRLS GALORE

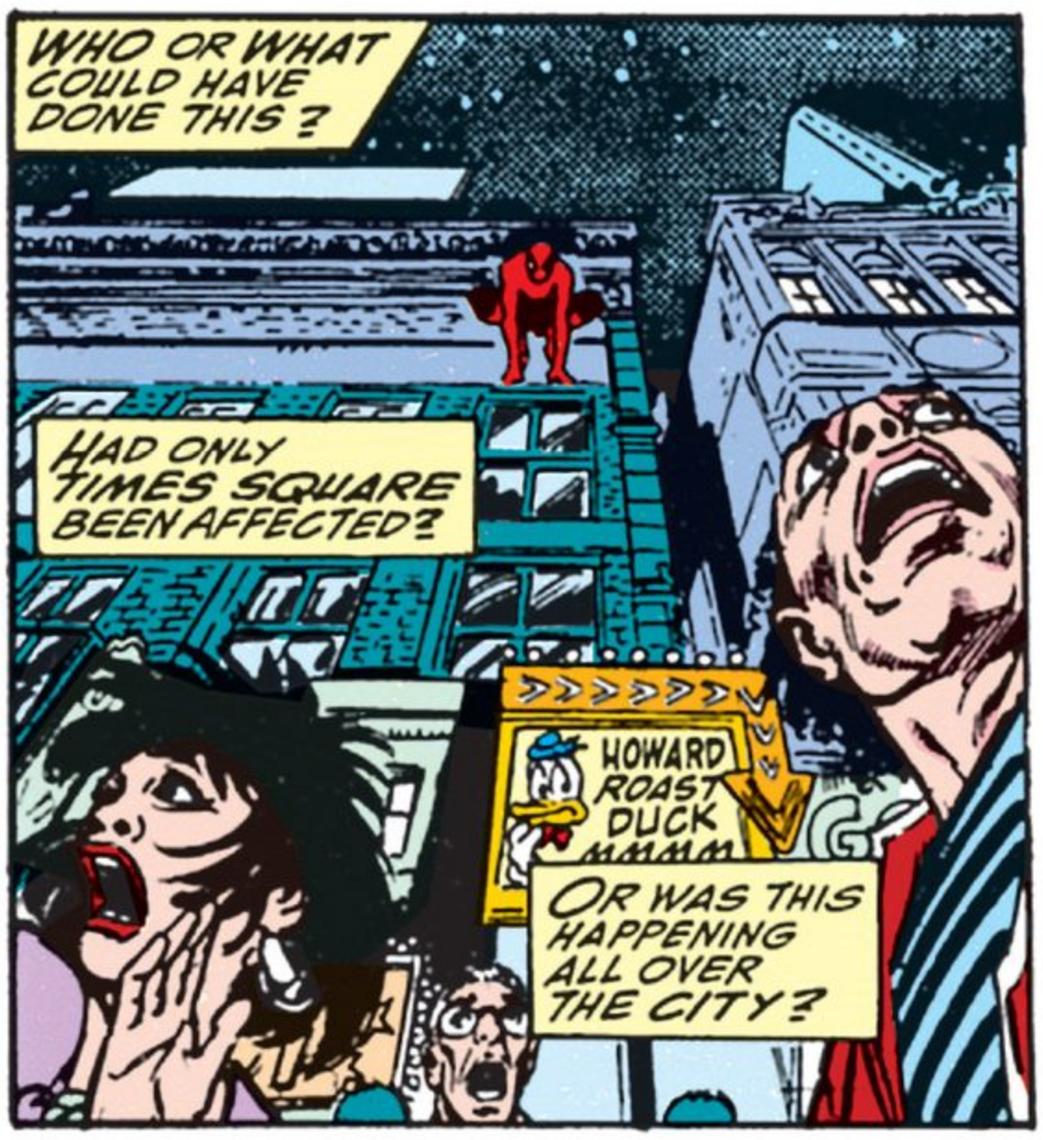
WHY COULDN'T I HAVE KEPT MY EYES SHUT JUST A FEW SECONDS LONGER?

BUT I DIDN'T, SO I ENDED UP WITNESSING A SIGHT THAT I'M SURE WILL HAUNT MY DREAMS FOR YEARS TO COME.

THERE WAS NO OMINOUS WARNING: NOT ONE STORM CLOUD, HEAVENLY VOICE NOR ANY OF THE KIND OF THINGS YOU'D THINK WOULD ACCOMPANY SUCH A CATACLYSMIC EVENT.

NOTHING.





I'D JUST STOPPED BY AVENGERS HQ TO GO THROUGH SOME COMPUTER FILES INVOLVING A CASE I WAS WORKING ON.

EVERYTHING SEEMED PEACEFUL ENOUGH-

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T LAST-

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND HAWKEYE, IN FROM THE WEST COAST, KEEPING SERSI COMPANY DURING HER STINT ON MONITOR DUTY.

CAP-- I FOUND THAT FILE YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT-

Cap

THANKS, SERSI.

I WAS REACHING FOR THE FILE WHEN IT HAPPENED...

THEY WERE DISAPPEARING!

THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I COULD DO.

NOTHING AT ALL.

THEY WERE GONE.

I FELT SO HELPLESS.

AND SCARED.

BECAUSE, DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I KNEW.

THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING --

--THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING THAT WAS DESTINED TO BECOME MUCH **BIGGER** AND MORE **HORRIBLE** THAN ANYTHING THE AVENGERS HAD EVER BEFORE FACED.

WHEN YOU'RE THE CHIEF HONCHO OF SHIELD YOU EXPECT IT TO HIT THE FAN OCCASIONALLY...

...BUT I NEVER FIGURED IT'D GET THIS BAD THIS QUICK.

NO, MR. PRESIDENT.

WE'RE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED.

YES, HALF MY CREW VANISHED ALSO, SIR.

WE'RE GETTING REPORTS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

AS SOON AS I KNOW, SIR, SO WILL YOU!

GOOD-BYE.

PSI-SECTION TELEMETRY SHOWS NOTHING, NICK.

TERRIFIC.

HALF THE HUMAN RACE JUST UP AND VANISHES--

"...AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST SPY NETWORK CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT CAUSED IT."

I GOT A NASTY FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS, VAL.

THIS ONE'S GOING TO BE BAD--REAL BAD.

NEW BULLETINS COMING IN INDICATE THAT *HUMANS* ARE *NOT* THE ONLY CREATURES FALLING VICTIM TO THE *GREAT DISAPPEARANCE.*

Smilin' Stan's BAR & GRILL

CATTLE *FARMERS* REPORT THAT HALF THEIR *HERDS* HAVE VANISHED.

INDEED, SCIENTISTS BELIEVE HALF OF ALL *ANIMAL LIFE* ON THE PLANET HAS DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH THE MISSING *HUMAN VICTIMS.*

MANY PET OWNERS HAVE...

SKREE-RAKK

I'VE HEARD *ENOUGH!*

SO IT'S HAPPENING EVERYWHERE. NOT JUST HERE ON BROADWAY, NOT JUST TO *RICK.* BUT THE *ABOMINATION* IS INVOLVED SOMEHOW-- SO THAT'S WHERE I START.

EXIT

REST ROOMS

WHEN I BECAME EMPRESS S'BYLL OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE I NEVER EXPECTED THE POST TO BE EASILY HANDLED...

BUT THIS IS FAR MORE THAN I EVER DREAMT I'D HAVE TO RECKON WITH.

FROM EVEN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE EMPIRE COME REPORTS OF MASSIVE DISAPPEARANCES.

I BELIEVE THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE.

NONE WHATSOEVER.

ONLY OUR ANCIENT ENEMY WOULD DARE SUCH A BLATANT ACT OF AGRESSION!

THE KREE MUST PAY FOR THIS VILLAINOUS DEED WITH BLOOD!

LET THERE BE WAR!!

A SENSE OF GREAT UNEASE CAME UPON ME...

...ONE I COULD NOT EXPLAIN AWAY.

ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE!

I CAN FEEL THEM!

MASTER...

I FEEL...

WONG?

WHAT THE--?

BY HOGGOTH!

WONG!

THEY'RE ALL DYING!

BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF SOULS ARE BLINKING OUT OF EXISTENCE!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

NOT A ONE KNEW WHAT STRUCK THEM!

HORRIBLE!

I COULD TASTE THEIR DREAD AND CONFUSION!

THEY ARE WITH... AND PART OF DEATH NOW.

JUST TOO MUCH... TO BEAR...

...TOO MUCH...

FEW KNOW THAT LIFE EXISTS ON SATURN'S MOON TITAN...

THERE, WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE, LIVES A RACE OF DEMI-GODS IN A PEACEFUL PARADISE.

IT IS THE HOME OF THE TITANS.

MY HOME.

AND SO, I URGED MY FRIEND FIRE-LORD TO RETURN WITH ME TO TITAN.

DEAR MENTOR, I FEEL HE WOULD BE OF GREAT SERVICE TO US IN ANY FUTURE STRUGGLE AGAINST EVIL THANOS.

I AM MOST CERTAIN HE WOULD, SON EROS.

I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU, FRIEND FIRELORD, AND WELCOME YOU--

WHAT?

FATHER?

FATHER!

TH--THIS BE NOT... MY DOING... EMERALD ONE...

WHAT FIREHEAD DO TO OLD MAN??

YES, STAY THY HAND, DESTROYER.

Attention! Attention!

Priority alert!

WHAT IS IT, ISSAC?

REPORTING PLANETWIDE PHENOMENON. HALF OF POPULATION HAS SUDDENLY VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE.

I CURRENTLY HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THE OCCURRENCE.

THANOS.

THANOS.

THANOS.

I THINK WE WERE ALL ADJUSTING PRETTY WELL TO OUR NEW BODS...

I'D LOST MY BRICKETTE LOOK AND...

...THE BABE WAS KEEPING BUSY STITCHING TOGETHER A NEW OUTFIT...

THIRTY

IT SEEMS STRANGE HAVING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE SEWING AGAIN.

I LIKE BEING BACK, MYSELF.

I MISSED THIS REALITY WITH ALL ITS DIFFERENT PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO...

...TASTES TO SAVOR...

...PEOPLE TO ANNOY, AND--

HEY!

WHERE YA GO?!

GONE!

OF COURSE I KEPT MY HEAD STRAIGHT, DIDN'T PANIC-

HELP!

HELP!

SHE JUST WENT AND VANISHED!!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

YOU GOTTA DO SOME-THIN' AND--

OH, NO.

A FAT LOTTA HELP YOU'RE GONNA BE...

NEXT ISSUE > FROM BAD TO WORSE!

ZONE